



Portfolio Guide

The Grand Council of Charles

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Alexander Leslie, 1st Earl of Leven

Alexander Leslie, 1st Earl of Leven, was a Scottish soldier who served in both Swedish and Scottish armies, and later, was part of the Parliamentary faction¹. Leslie began his military career in Dutch service in 1605, reaching the rank of captain in the Dutch States Army.

He then joined the Swedish army in 1608, where he distinguished himself, as he fought relentlessly at the Battle of Lutzen, despite a grave injury. Even though he was born illegally, and raised as a foster child, he rose to the rank of a Swedish Field Marshal. In 1638, he returned to Scotland due to rising tensions between the Scottish and Charles I, and was appointed "Lord General" in command of the Army of the Covenant during the Bishops' Wars². He was also appointed as a privy counselor, (advisory body to the head of state, where he provided assistance on matters of national importance), Captain of Edinburgh Castle, Lord Balgonie, and Earl of Leven.

During the First Bishops' War, Leslie positioned his army at Dunse Law and invited the Royalist officers to inspect his superior forces. Realizing their disadvantage, the Royalists chose to retreat rather than engage in battle. In the Second Bishops' War, Leslie conducted a successful campaign in northern England, culminating in the Battle of Newburn where he overwhelmed the Royalists. This victory, along with the capture of Newcastle, pressured King Charles I to negotiate a treaty with the Scottish Covenanters, leading to the Treaty of London³.

In the Bishop's war, he commanded the Army of the Solemn League (a joint league

consisting of the Parliamentarians, and the Scottish Covenanters) and was a senior commander of the Army of the Committee of Both Kingdoms. Recognizing his military achievements, King Charles I appointed Leslie to the Scottish Privy Council in 1641. For this committee, Leslie will hold the most power as a soldier, being supported by the largest, and most powerful infantry.

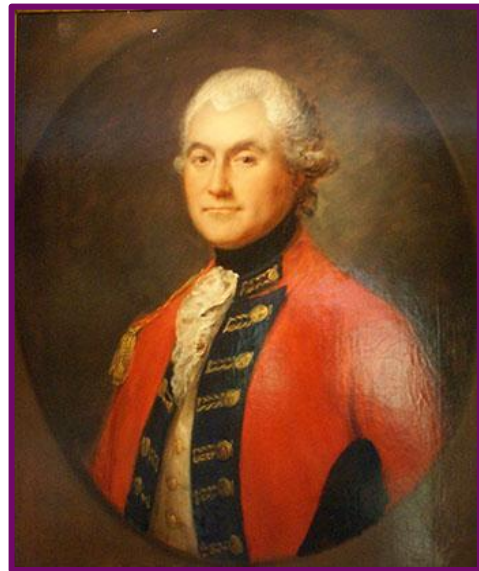


Figure 1.1 Alexander Leslie, 1st Earl of Leven

Algernon Percy, 10th Earl of Northumberland

Algernon Percy, 10th Earl of Northumberland, was an influential English aristocrat who was a part of the Parliamentarians. Born in 1602, he belonged to the prominent Percy family, known for their wealth and power in Northern England. His mother, Dorothy, was the sister of Robert Devereux, 2nd Earl of Essex, another prominent member in this council⁴. Percy had been accused of complicity in the Gunpowder Plot, and had to serve a sentence

in the Tower of London till 1621. Once he was released, he began to dabble in politics.



Figure 1.2 Algernon Percy

After pursuing a 6-year educational tour around Europe, he returned to England, and he was elected as a Member of Parliament for Sussex and Chichester.

In 1626, he joined the House of Lords and was now addressed as “Lord Percy”. As a member of the House of Lords, Percy became a prominent leader opposing George Villiers, 1st Duke of Buckingham, who King Charles favored. After much effort, he was admitted to the Order of the Garter in 1635, which was the oldest and most prestigious British Order of chivalry, which consisted of the monarchy, and individuals who had made significant contributions to public service. His appointment as admiral of the ship money fleet in 1636 allowed him to initiate naval reforms and enforce the Oath of Supremacy⁵.

Originally a member of Charles I’s council, when the Long Parliament convened in the start of the 1640’s, Algernon Percy emerged as a leading critic of royal policies. He provided evidence against Thomas Wentworth, Earl of Strafford, during his trial for high treason, by publishing a letter exposing the royalist plot that had been created to rescue Strafford.

In 1641, Percy defied royal authority by preparing ships under parliamentary control

to suppress the rebellion in Ireland. Although he did not support the Grand Remonstrance, he protested against adjourning Parliament and was appointed Lord Lieutenant of Sussex, Pembrokeshire, and Anglesey.

For this committee, Algernon Percy is expected to lead the Parliamentary naval forces, as well as take charge of the Parliamentary Committee on Public Safety. He will also have access to all the Parliamentary funds.

Arthur Haselrig

Sir Arthur Haselrig, 2nd Baronet, was a prominent leader of the Parliamentarians. From the beginning, he held strong puritanical beliefs and opposed Archbishop Laud, and the Royalists⁶.

When the Short Parliament convened in 1640, Haselrig was elected as a Member of Parliament for Leicestershire, and continued to serve the same position in the Long Parliament. He went on to serve the same in the Long Parliament⁷.

He actively participated in important parliamentary actions such as the Act of Attainder against Thomas Wentworth, Earl of Strafford, and the Root and Branch Bill. He was also involved in the passing of the Militia Bill in December 1641. For this committee, he will serve as one of the Parliamentary leaders and work under Oliver Cromwell directly in the army.



Figure 1.3 Arthur Haselrig

Denzil Holles

Denzil Holles, a Parliamentarian, was a wealthy landowner, who held substantial estates in Nottinghamshire and Cornwall. He studied at Christ's College, Cambridge. In 1624, Holles was elected as a Member of Parliament for Mitchell, near his family's estates in Cornwall. However, his impact in this Parliament was limited as it was dissolved following the death of James I in 1625. As a Presbyterian and Puritan, Holles strongly opposed the pro-Spanish policies of Charles I⁸.

In 1628, he was elected as a Member of Parliament for Dorchester, where he played a major role in garnering support for the Petition of Right. In March 1629, he was among those who famously compelled the Speaker to continue sitting as talks of dissolving Parliament were being held, but unfortunately, it was dissolved. Holles and other members were prosecuted by the Star Chamber, which was a secret court of law, and he spent the next decade in obscurity.

The defeat in the Bishops' Wars in 1639 and 1640 forced Charles to recall Parliament, and Holles was elected for Dorchester in

both the Short and Long Parliaments. During this time, rather than directly attacking Charles, Holles and his colleagues sought to prosecute his advisors⁹.

Holles played a prominent role in the impeachment of Archbishop Laud and Thomas Wentworth, Earl of Strafford. He was involved in negotiations with the Scottish Covenanters, which resulted in the Treaty of London in August 1641.

Holles opposed bishops, primarily due to their role in the House of Lords and their responsibility for censorship. His objections to their influence led to an increase in the publication of pamphlets and books promoting radical religious and political ideas. In October 1641, the Irish Rebellion further escalated tensions, and Holles helped draft the Grand Remonstrance presented to Charles in December. On 30 December, he led the Commons in the arrest of twelve bishops who disputed the legality of laws passed by the Lords during their exclusion. When Charles attempted to arrest the Five Members, including Holles, on 4 January 1642, he failed and left London, which proved to be a tactical mistake. He lost his political authority, as well as the opportunity for negotiations, and hence, was a grave mistake.

As hostilities between the opposing factions grew, Holles was appointed to the Committee of Safety in July 1642. While he is not set to fight in the war physically, he mainly stood as an advocate for Parliamentary reforms.



Figure 1.4 Denzil Holles

George Digby, 2nd Earl of Bristol

George Digby was born around 1612 and was the eldest son of John Digby. He was an English politician and a peer. He was a part of the House of Commons from 1640-1641. He supported the Royalists in the English Civil War. Digby was baptized in Madrid and made a great impression at the age of 12, when he appeared at the bar of the House of Commons to plead to get his father out of prison¹⁰.

In April 1640, Digby was elected to the Short Parliament as a member for Dorset. In November 1640, he was re-elected MP for Long Parliament. In February 1641, Digby gave a speech to oppose the abolition of episcopacy. In June, he was almost assaulted in the House of the Commons. The next day, Charles called him by writ of acceleration to save him from any attacks. Digby became a royal advisor in 1641¹¹.

In early 1642, he encouraged Charles I to arrest his leading Parliamentary opponents, and Charles followed his advice. The House of the Commons impeached him for treason a few days after that. Digby has a very erratic character that sometimes makes it very tough to work with him. For this committee,

Digby is expected to lead the Royalist naval forces and be one of the closest confidants of King Charles I. He will lead the naval forces.

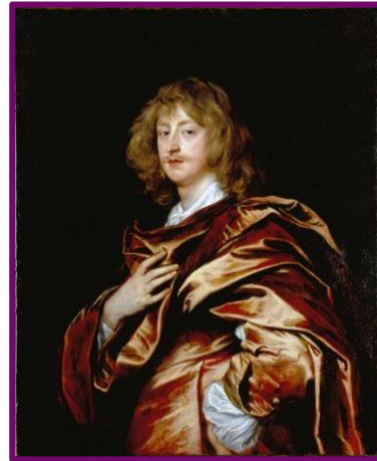


Figure 1.5 George Digby, 2nd Earl

John Hampden

John Hampden was born in June 1595 in London to William Hampden and Elizabeth Cromwell¹². Hampden was an English landowner and politician, and became a national figure due to his opposition to arbitrary taxes that were imposed by Charles I. He was an ally of the Parliamentary leader John Pym and a cousin of Olivier Cromwell. He was also one of the Five Members that were arrested in January 1642¹³. In 1628, Hampden worked behind the scenes in the Parliament, which helped him get into the inner circle of the parliamentary opposition. Hampden resisted to pay ship money, which was a levy collected by Charles I to outfit his navy. Hampden held arguments and protested against the validity of the taxes that Charles I was raising. In 1635, Hampden ultimately refused to pay 20 shillings of ship money. The King won a legal battle by a narrow majority, and this led to widespread resistance against the tax. Hampden became Leader John Pym's principal lieutenant during the long Parliament of 1640. He

successfully evaded the King's action to try to arrest him. Hampden was one of the only people to understand that Charles I could not be trusted to keep commitments, and he would have to be defeated. He encouraged foreign ambassadors to rile up trouble in the King's court, such as the Scots and the Irish. Hampden was part of the Committee of Safety and was also a colonel in the English Civil War. Hampden has brilliant organizational and man-management skills, which was seen in 1628 where he worked behind the scenes in the Parliament. Hampden conducted meetings under the company's name, but this provided cover for him to organize opposition against the King.



Figure 1.6 John Hampden

John Pym

John Pym, a Parliamentary politician and administrator, was born in 1584. His father was a member of the minor gentry from Somerset and went on to become a successful lawyer, but he died 7 months after John was born¹⁴.

John was one of the founders of parliamentary democracy in England, and played a pivotal role in leading the opposition to Charles I.

In June 1605, Pym was assigned to collect taxes for the Exchequer in Hampshire. This connected him further as he and made him

more important than most of his colleagues, who were confined to family networks, for example, William Whitaker. For example, it helped him get elected for the seat of Calne in 1621.

Since Pym could not directly oppose the King as it was considered treason, he had to attack the King's advisors. In 1621, after the dissolution of the Parliament, he was arrested, but brought back before the Privy Council.

In 1630, John Pym became the treasurer of the Providence Island Company¹⁵, which made him give up his Exchequer position. Being treasurer improved his relationship with the Spanish massively.

After the humiliating terms of the Treaty of Ripon, Charles had to hold fresh elections for the Short Parliament. Following this, John Pym was unofficially the leader of the opposition. John Pym helped draft the Grand Remonstrance, which was presented to Charles on December 01, 1641. This led to unrest, and in response to that, Charles tried to get John Pym along with four others arrested. Charles left London, and this gave Pym a majority in both the houses.

John Pym heads the Committee of Safety in the English Civil War. The committee was set up in July 1642. This committee was made to keep Charles I in check, and consisted of the five members from the House of Lords and the ten members from the House of Commons. The Committee was responsible for daily control of the military, and worked to establish a relationship between Westminster, an assembly called by the Long Parliament and the Parliament's army.

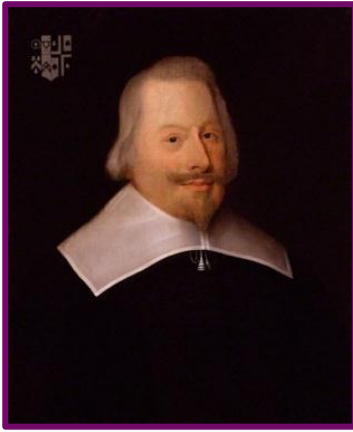


Figure 1.7 John Pym

Oliver Cromwell

Oliver Cromwell, born in 1599, in Huntingdon, England, transformed himself into one of the most influential military leaders in English history.

Cromwell was a devout Puritan, deeply committed to his religious beliefs, who believed that the Parliament was superior, and felt that constitutional reform was the best way forward¹⁶. In the 1620s and 1630s, he represented the town of Cambridge in Parliament and increasingly voiced his opposition to King Charles I's authoritarian rule and the influence of the Anglican Church.

In the 1630s, Cromwell became actively involved in local politics and military matters. He served as a leading figure in the opposition to Charles I's attempts to impose religious conformity and arbitrary taxation. In 1640, he was heavily involved in the Short Parliament¹⁷. He was elected as the Member of Parliament for Cambridge and passionately spoke against the king's policies, advocating for religious freedom and parliamentary authority. Cromwell's stance garnered attention and admiration, establishing his reputation as a principled and outspoken critic of royal absolutism. As tensions escalated between Charles I and Parliament, Cromwell's military experience and zealous commitment to the

Parliamentarian cause became increasingly valuable.

For the purpose of this committee, Cromwell will serve as the absolute military leader for the Parliamentarians, which means that he will have complete control over all factions, and dictates the movement order for the army.

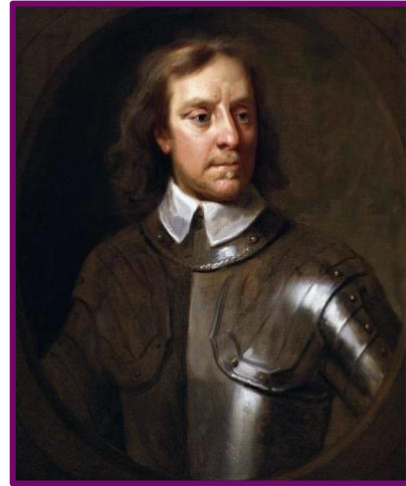


Figure 1.8 Oliver Cromwell

Prince Rupert of the Rhine

Prince Rupert of the Rhine, now a daring Royalist commander, was born in Prague, in 1619, and was granted the title of prince, by the principality of Lusatia. His father had been elected king by the predominantly Protestant estates of Bohemia. Rupert spent his early adolescent years in England, where he switched between the courts of The Hague and his uncle, King Charles I. However, he was captured and imprisoned in Linz in the midst of the Thirty Years' War¹⁸. Rupert's military career commenced at an early age; at 14, he participated in the Dutch pas d'armes alongside the Protestant Prince Frederick Henry of Orange. Later that same year, he fought with Prince Frederick and the Duke of Brunswick in the Anglo-German siege of Rheinberg. By 1635, Rupert served as a military guard to Prince Frederick, and he then fought against imperial Spain in the

successful campaign around Breda in 1637 during the Eighty Years' War in the Netherlands¹⁹.

By the conclusion of this period, Rupert had gained a reputation for his fearlessness in battle, exuberant temperament, and industrious nature. As a maturing youth, he was often characterised by a lack of maturity. While he had a quick intellect, and was sharp on the battlefield, he lacked socially. This resulted in him inspiring great loyalty in some of his men, but also creating many enemies. At the age of 23, he has just been appointed as the commander of the Royalist cavalry. As the commander, he is in a position to lead the regiment whose primary task is routing the opposition horse, before turning on the infantry.



Figure 1.9 Prince Rupert of the Rhine

Robert Bertie, 1st Earl of Lindsey

Robert Bertie, the 1st Earl of Lindsey was born on December 16, 1582. He was a part of Robert Devereux, 3rd Earl of Essex's trip to Cadiz, Spain, but this was an unsuccessful operation. He then served in the Netherlands. He was also given temporary

command of forces in 1601²⁰. Lindsey was a principal adventurer in the drainage of the Lindsey Level in the Fenlands.

Lindsey joined the King in April 1642 to try to negotiate an exchange of the magazine at Hull for the King's military needs. However, this entire exchange was refuted by Sir John Hotham, a strong supporter of the Parliamentarians²¹. He expelled the party and caused the King to withdraw to York. Then, by July, the King returned with a force of 3,000 infantry and 1,000 cavalry. Charles was intent on surrounding the city, and Lord Lindsey was left in command throughout this siege. Towards the end of July, all of Lindsey's arsenal which was set in Anlaby, west of Hull had been blown up.

In the Battle of Edgehill and for this committee, Lindsey will be the General-in-chief of the Royalists. He will have command over the forces and have access to the treasury. He will be deeply trusted by the King with all decisions. He will also have army men that are loyal to him only.



Figure 1.10 Robert Bertie, 1st Earl of Lindsey

Robert Devereux, 3rd Earl of Essex

Robert Devereux, the 3rd Earl of Essex was born on January 11, 1591 to Robert

Devereux, 2nd Earl of Essex, a courtier and soldier who served during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I. Devereux was a soldier and a Parliamentarian during the English Civil War. His campaigns began in 1620, where he had five consecutive successful operations in the Rhine Valley in the Thirty Years war²².

In 1625 he was appointed by Charles I as vice admiral in an operation to Cadiz, a Spanish port. However, the operation was unsuccessful. Devereux was commanding a squadron as a vice-admiral and as colonel of a foot regiment. Even after the unsuccessful operation, Charles appointed him second in command in the Bishop's War of 1639²³, but he refused to fight for the King as his ministers were deposed by the parliament. Robert Devereux was a strong Protestant and a close friend of John Pym. He was known for being one of the Puritan Nobles in the House of Lords, meaning he believed the Church of England was flawed and needed to be fixed.

Robert Devereux had also tipped off the five members that Charles planned to arrest in early 1642, which led to humiliation for Charles I, as he learned that all of them had fled. Essex earned trust among the Parliamentarians like this. He was then appointed to be Captain-General of the Parliamentarian army in 1642. This made him Lord-Lieutenant in Staffordshire, Yorkshire, Shropshire and Montgomeryshire. This gave him these territories for him to rule. Essex had his own standing army.

He was a member of the Committee of Safety which was formed on July 4th, 1642, which controlled day to day operations of the Parliamentarian army and coordinated between Westminster and the Parliamentarian army. He was one of the leading members of the committee from the Commons. In 1642, Devereux had been

given orders that limited his capability of fighting the Royalists. The Parliament wanted to fight against the Royalists, but did not want to fight the King. They realized if they fought the King, it would be treason, which they did not want to commit. Therefore, the Parliament told Devereux to make military advancements on the Royalists without affecting the King. If the Parliaments really wanted to affect the Royalists they'd have to affect the King as well, but since they were not ready to do this, Devereux was put in a very tough situation which crippled him in battle.



Figure 1.11 Robert Devereux

Thomas Wentworth, 1st Earl of Strafford

Sir Thomas Wentworth, 1st Earl of Strafford, began his career in 1614 as the representative of Yorkshire in the "Addled Parliament". In the first parliament of Charles I in June 1625, Wentworth represented Yorkshire once again, and continued to oppose the proposed war with Spain²⁴. After the parliament was dissolved in November, he assumed the position of High Sheriff of Yorkshire, which excluded him from the subsequent 1626 parliament. Despite this, he did not adopt an antagonistic stance towards the king. He held a different position from the regular opposition, as he

disagreed with the king's policies, even though he looked to serve the crown.

In 1628, Wentworth played a prominent role in supporting the Petition of Right, which aimed to limit the power of the king. In the parliament of 1628, he maintained the policy of resisting arbitrary taxation and imprisonment, but didn't wish to offend the king while looking to achieve his goals.

Wentworth led a movement for a bill that would protect the liberties of the subjects²⁵, in a manner as comprehensive as the Petition of Right, but his proposal failed due to the uncompromising nature of the parliamentary party and Charles's refusal to make concessions.

In 1628, just after the prorogation, Wentworth was elevated to the rank of Baron Wentworth and was promised that he would be made the president of the Council of the North at the next opportunity. The parliamentary session of 1629 ended with a rupture between the king and parliament, rendering moderation futile. Wentworth had to choose whether to assist the House of Commons in dominating the king, or to assist the king in dominating the House of Commons. He chose the latter, throwing himself into repressive measures and claiming to uphold the traditional constitution while accusing his parliamentary opponents of seeking to alter it by asserting parliamentary supremacy. From that point onward, he served as one of the principal members of the royal advisory team, known as the "Thorough Party" alongside Archbishop William Laud during the Eleven Years Rule.

In September 1639, Wentworth was recalled to England to address mounting problems, including bankruptcy and the conflict with the Scottish Covenanters. He became the principal advisor to the king. Unaware of the

growing opposition in England during his absence, he recommended summoning a parliament to support renewing the war. In January 1640, the king elevated him to the rank of Earl of Strafford, and he served as a Royalist.

While history states that Wentworth died, for the purpose of this committee, Wentworth continues to remain alive.



Figure 1.12 Thomas Wentworth, 1st Earl of Strafford

William Laud

William Laud, a bishop and Royalist in the Church of England was born in 1573. He was born in Berkshire to a clothier.

In 1601, he was ordained both, deacon and priest. He served as the highest ranking clergyman in England²⁶. In 1633, he was appointed by Charles I. Laud played a pivotal role in the advocacy of the religious reforms of Charles I's. In 1640, he was arrested by the parliament. Under Charles I, Laud grew quickly and gained a position of importance between 1625 and 1628. In 1626 he became Bath and Wells' bishop. He was

transferred from Bath and Wells in July 1628, to become Bishop of London.

Laud was a staunch defender of the English church and tried to establish a united identity for England. Laud promoted elaborate rituals and ceremonies in church services. He tried to make the Church sacred and used ornate decorations, along with rich vestments. People saw his efforts as being overly influenced by Roman Catholic traditions. Laud also looked after governmental matters and tried to assert his authority over them. He advocated for a hierarchy of bishops and wanted church power to be centralized²⁷. This earned him criticism. Laud's relationship with the King, which led to the opposition criticizing his policies, which caused riots. While Laud was imprisoned in 1640 by the Parliament for treason, they did not execute him due to his age, and left him in prison. While he has lost a lot of the power he had, Laud's word and advice is still essential to the King, who considers Laud to be one of his closest friends, and his mentor. He is overall still very well respected amongst the common people and some of the politicians in England. However, some people do criticize his relationship with the King, but they still think of his words as saintly. Laud helped Charles I grow in popularity by preaching that Charles I had the god given right to rule by divine right. This brought him closer to the King. Laud's influence grew when an enemy of the King was assassinated, as he went on to preach that those who went against the King were bad Christians and deserved what was bestowed upon them. This made the King trust him more. Laud's power helped him attack Puritans, and his influence even led to the imprisonment of some of them. For the purpose of this committee, Laud is not imprisoned and is a free man, but was in jail up until July 1642.



Figure 1.13 William Laud

William Strode

William Strode was born in 1598. He was an English Politician, who was a member of the House of Commons and was one of the five members who was impeached and almost arrested by Charles I. He fought on the Parliamentary side.

In 1624, Strode was elected as an MP, for Bere Alston as a member of Parliament. He was re-elected MP till 1628, except for in 1627²⁸. He was opposed to the rule of Charles I from very early on. In 1640, he was elected to the Short Parliament as well. He was also re-elected for the Long Parliament, which met in November 1640. His proposition for parliamentary control for ministerial appointments and the militia was the first of its kind, with no other propositions before that. He supported the prosecution of Stafford²⁹.

Strode was aggressively pursuing bringing down William Laud preceding the Battle of Edgehill, and succeeded to some extent.

For the sake of this committee, Strode will be the General-in-chief of the Parliamentarians. He will have command over the forces.

He will also have a very small army of men that are loyal to him only.



Figure 1.14 William Strode

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